But then there was some insistence for some discussion. Thank God, the discussion continued and everybody, whether he gave his name in advance or not, has spoken and, I hope, is satisfied by speaking. I don't know how far the Minister of State would be *...(Interruptions)...* She doesn't have the papers. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: She needs some papres. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know that he should have the papers from the State Government. That is what I was informed by the Secretary-General when the hon. Chairman was there. We thought that the Members wanted to have a ful-fledged discussion on this subject and once it was started it was not proper to stop the discussion half way through. All the Members whose names were there were allowed to seek clarifications.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Ashok Mitra, can I help you? Do you want to ask something?

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: I seek your indulgence on a point of order. Madam, under Rule 54, I have moved a motion seeking disapproval of the Minister's statement made last Thursday. I would like to know the fate of that Motion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I do not think there is any *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: If you kindly remember, last year we had faced a similar situation with respect to a statement made by the then Commerce Minister on the floor of this House and the issue was whether this House had the prerogative to disapprove a *suo motu* statement made by a Minister. You had promised to give your ruling Madam, but we are still waiting for it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: At that time I gave my ruling. On a *suo motu* statement, it is only on a motion which is before discussion in the House, we can disapprove. You can disapprove to the extent that you say, "We do not accept your statement; we do not believe what you have said, or, it is far from truth." To that extent you can and you are free to do, *...(Interruptions)...* whatever you like. Beyond that, if there is any *suo motu* statement which is coming up before the House or even a discussion under 'Short Duration Discussion', and if it is not moved under a proper motion, it cannot be rejected because we are not asking for a rejection. So, your motion, if you have given notice, cannot be considered in this case because it is a *suo motu* statement which the Minister laid in the Lok Sabha and he is obliged to bring it to the Rajya Sabha also. Since in the Rajya Sabha there is a special permission for the Members, as convention, to ask for clarifications while the Lok Sabha Members do not ask for it. So, we do not have any special permission also to reject a statement.

SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Thank you. I am very grateful. I will not trouble you for the rest of the evening.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I thought, 'for the rest of the Session.' I will allow you. Before that, if the House so agrees, we can allow the Minister of State for Home to lay his statement. Since it is a big statement, he needs overnight study. Tomorrow we are discussing the nexus between politics and crime. Tomorrow when we discuss the subject, we can discuss this subject together.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Crime and Law and Order Situation in the Country

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): Madam, while taking up the discussion of Vohra Committee report tomorrow, the clarifications can also be taken up simultaneously. Will you give me permission to lay a statement on the Table, Madam?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, if the House agrees. Can he lay?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I beg to lay a statement ...*(Interruptions)*... on the law and order situation in the country on the Table of the House.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): Where are the copies? ...*(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Copies both in Hindi and English ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH (Maharashtra): There are so many factual data, and he may not be in a position to reply.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I am in a position to reply.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have to adjourn at 7 o'clock. Within that time he has to reply. The Business Advisory Committee took a decision that the House will sit till 7 o'clock I will announce it later before we adjourn the House. So, Mr. Salve, please make it convenient to reply before 7 o'clock.

CLARIFICATIONS ON STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Dabhol Power Project (Contd.)

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Madam, I should try my level best.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: May be even earlier, if you feel so.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Madam, we have discussed this matter for one hour the other day. We have discussed this for two and a half hours today. So many Members have asked so many questions. Hardly any facet of the entire controversy has been left out. It will be very improper of me, and I will be failing in my duty to the House, if I do not reply—I will be brief, but I will have to be adequate and I have to be lucid.

Therefore, Madam, if a few minutes here and there extra are allowed, it will be better; I will respectfully crave your indulgence.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Agreed. After all, Shri Salve belongs to this House.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I am grateful for his various indulgences to me and one among them is that he accepts that I am a Member of this House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He cannot deny it, Mr. Salve.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I am grateful to him, Madam. You will never deny it.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Madam, the Enron controversy has created quite some heat throughout the country. It has become a controversial issue. Almost every newspaper has been writing about it and everyone—one who knows the subject, one who does not know the subject, whether he is aware of the facts or unaware of the facts—is talking of this controversy. Therefore, in this House, if there were passions raised, if there were tempers raised and if there was more heat than light, I am not surprised.

AN HON. MEMBER: Both heat and light.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I hope there were some currents also!

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR: Not cross-currents.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: I wish, Madam, today I was not a Minister, but a private Member from the Party, so that I would be able to reply, throwing circumspection to winds. Sitting here ...*(Interruptions)*... While sitting here as a Minister, there are various constraints on me. Madam, I will abide by those constraints. I will abide by certain norms. There are certain conventions by which I have to abide. I can depend only on whatever material I have and not on surmises, not on conjectures, not on a hearsay, not on my political predilections, my political affiliations, but on the basis of material, on the basis of evidence, on the basis of records, on the basis of documents only. A considerable amount of emphasis has been laid on the aspect of corruption. I will come to that